

CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-1289
Owings Hall
9833 Old Solomons Island Road
Owings, Calvert County
Ca. 1927
Private

Owings Hall is situated in the heart of Owings at the southwest corner of the intersection of Old Solomons Island Road and Thomas Road. Built circa 1927 on land sold to the Junior Order United American Mechanics by Harry P. Owings, Owings Hall has occupied a significant place in the community of Owings throughout the 20th century. Owings Hall is an excellent and intact example of a fraternal hall, which functioned very much like a community hall. It has served as the meeting place of the Jr.O.U.A.M. and their auxiliary, the Daughters of America, as well as a public meeting place for the residents of Owings and the surrounding area. Following a brief period when it was used as a sheet metal shop, the building fell into disuse and is currently vacant.

The building, relatively large in comparison to similar structures of this type at 4,680 square feet, is a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame hall clad weatherboard. The hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and features two gable dormers and two interior chimneys. Dominating the five-bay wide façade is a centered one-story, three-bay-wide portico with a front-gabled roof supported by replacement Tuscan columns. The building has an L-shaped footprint. A layer of cement obscures the solid concrete foundation.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1289

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Owings Hall

other

2. Location

street and number 9833 Old Solomons Island Road not for publication

city, town Owings vicinity

county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Krick Plumbing and Heating Company, Inc.

street and number 5011 46th Avenue telephone 301/927-5284

city, town Hyattsville state MD zip code 20781

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M7, P163

city, town Prince Frederic liber ABE folio 798

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 0 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1289

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Owings Hall, built by 1927, is located at 9833 Old Solomons Island Road at the intersection with Thomas Avenue on a flat, grassy parcel of land directly adjacent to a gully in the small crossroads town of Owings, Maryland. (1) The building, relatively large in comparison to similar structures of this type at 4,680 square feet, is a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame hall clad weatherboard. The hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and features two gable dormers and two interior chimneys. Dominating the five-bay wide façade is a centered one-story, three-bay-wide portico with a front-gabled roof supported by replacement Tuscan columns. The building has an L-shaped footprint. A layer of cement obscures the solid concrete foundation.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary street front, or north elevation features five bays and a one-story, three-bay Colonial Revival, neoclassical portico supported on replacement Tuscan columns. A replacement wood balustrade runs between these columns. The portico has a cross gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and a molded cornice that is more ornate in the central pediment. The pediment is clad in tongue-and-groove beaded board arranged vertically. Entrance to the hall is provided through two symmetrical sets of double doors occupying the second and fourth bays of the first story. These double doors feature five horizontal raised panels and narrow two-light transoms. All windows on this elevation are replacement 1/1 aluminum, with the original flat wood surrounds and narrow lintel. Windows throughout the building are primarily 1/1-aluminum replacements like the front elevation, although several original 2/2 windows remain in random locations. The low, wide projecting dormer features three fixed-sash, six-light windows.

The east elevation exhibits a single flush exterior wall extending the full depth of the building. Fenestration is irregular with four windows exhibited on each story. A dormer identical to that on the north elevation projects from the hipped roof, with the exception that the central sash has been lost and replaced with a board. The west elevation is more regular in its fenestration, with three bays on each story: one single window on each story in the main portion of the building and two evenly spaced windows per story on the west elevation of the rear ell. The rear, or south elevation features slightly irregular fenestration with one window on each level of the main block of the building and a door on the first story. On the south elevation of the ell are four full-sized windows, two per story, with one smaller window and a central doorway on the first story. Both doors on the south elevation are of the five horizontal raised panel type and appear to be original to the structure.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of Owings Hall was not accessible at the time of this survey.

ENDNOTES

1. The address as given by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation is 9829 Skinners Turn Road, although the associated tax map and parcel correctly shows the property on Old Solomons Island Road.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates c1927; 1969

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates c1927

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Owings Hall is situated in the heart of Owings at the southwest corner of the intersection of Old Solomons Island Road and Thomas Road. Built circa 1927 on land sold to the Junior Order United American Mechanics by Harry P. Owings, Owings Hall has occupied a significant place in the community of Owings throughout the 20th century. Owings Hall is an excellent and intact example of a fraternal hall, which functioned very much like a community hall. It has served as the meeting place of the Jr.O.U.A.M. and their auxiliary, the Daughters of America, as well as a public meeting place for the residents of Owings and the surrounding area. Following a brief period when it was used as a sheet metal shop, the building fell into disuse and is currently vacant.

THE FRATERNAL HALL IN CALVERT COUNTY

One of the most significant public meeting places in Calvert County are fraternal lodges, which also functioned as community halls. Through the years Calvert County has hosted a number of fraternal organizations, both national and regional. Whereas fraternal organizations in urban areas tend to be geared towards professional advancement, such organizations in rural locations like Calvert County with highly dispersed populations serve a more basic social function in bringing together individuals who might otherwise have little contact with their neighbors. Even in rural communities, however, fraternal organizations were a means to political recognition and commercial networking, and prominent local citizens invariably belong to one or several fraternal organizations. Fraternal organizations in Calvert County have traditionally been sexually and racially segregated, a condition which exists to the present day on a voluntary basis.

Historically, the largest and most well-established fraternal organization in the United States were the Freemasons, or Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, who built a fairly elaborate lodge in Prince Frederick where they had been established since 1869. Tracing their origins back to medieval guilds, the fraternal organization of Freemasons was formed in 1717 in London and spread to the American colonies with the founding of the first American lodge in Boston in 1733. Particularly popular among the enlightened patriot leaders of the Revolutionary War and early Federal period, Freemasons, united by their common belief in one creator, proclaim their dedication to brotherly love, or fraternity, "relief," or charity, and truth to himself, God, country, fellow man and family. (1)

The popularity of "secret" fraternal organizations in America gained momentum in the mid-19th century, and by the end of the century Masonic lodges had spread to rural areas throughout the country in great numbers. Far from being the only organization of its kind, the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons were but one of a number of similar fraternities that arose in Calvert County during the period, including the Elks, Odd Fellows, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Columbus and the Galilean Fishermen. These fraternal organizations took on a charitable and a social role in the local community, and many of them built halls throughout the county of varying forms and sizes reflecting the wealth and presence of the

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organization in that area. Furthermore, most fraternal organizations contained specific provisions for the financial assistance of sick or disabled members and their families, and for assistance with funeral expenses for members. As with the American Legion halls, lodges were frequently used by the local communities for social events and meetings, when larger spaces were needed.

Beginning in the late 19th and continuing into the early 20th centuries, the Junior Order United American Mechanics, or Jr. O. U. A. M., had a substantial presence in Calvert County. The parent organization of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, the United American Mechanics, was established in 1853 as a workingmen's organization committed to fighting against labor pressures from increasing immigration, specifically the Irish, German and Roman Catholics. (2) In 1885, the Junior Order broke from its parent organization and established itself as an independent group. Over the next half century as the numbers of immigrants to the United States increased fueling anxieties about "American" job security, the Junior Order United American Mechanics increased their membership significantly with those united against "the ignorant, the vicious and the lawless of the Old World as a constant menace to our institutions." (3) Membership was extended to literate white male American citizens between the ages of 16 and 50 "of good moral character" and who believed in a "Supreme Being as the Creator and Preserver of the Universe," provided he did not engage in the selling of "spirituous or malt liquors." (4) Initiation rites contained elaborate costume rituals and symbolic role playing centered around the principles of virtue, liberty and patriotism, with the initiate taking the role of the Puritan arriving in the New World, or of a soldier at camp. (5) Despite the obvious xenophobic and racist undertones, the Junior Order was a charitable organization dedicated to assisting "Americans" in obtaining employment and achieving in business, caring for sick or disabled members and the families of deceased members, supporting the National Orphans Home, and promoting the reading of the Bible in public schools. (6)

Although never near the size of the Freemasons, at the height of its popularity in the first half of the 20th century, the Junior Order boasted 200,000 members nationwide. (7) In Calvert County, the Junior Order appears to have been most prominent during the first half of the 20th century. During this period, at least three councils are known to have existed, including Smithville Council No. 196, Loyal Council No. 153 in Owings, and Patuxent Council No. 192 in Lower Marlboro. Furthermore, both the Owings and Lower Marlboro councils shared their halls with an organization called the Daughters of America, suggesting that this organization was the female counterpart to the Junior Order, of which only men could be members. By the close of the Second World War, however, many Junior Order halls began to close due to lack of membership, a trend that was occurring in Junior Order councils throughout the country.

HISTORY OF OWINGS HALL

Another Junior Order hall was built by Loyal Council No. 53 following their purchase in 1927 of a 4,950 square foot parcel of land in the town of Owings from Harry and Hattie Owings. It was an unusually large two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame, hip-roof structure clad in lapped wood siding and featuring two low, wide dormers and a prominent Colonial Revival one-story portico on the primary elevation. Owings Hall contained a large open room with a stage in the west end, and a solid oak staircase. These architectural features make Owings Hall the most elaborate known Junior Order hall in the county, a bit surprising considering the small size of the community. During the ownership of the building by the Junior Order and the associated Daughters of America, the building was known more as a community hall than a fraternity lodge. From 1927 until the sale of the building to private individuals in 1969, a variety of community events took place at the hall, often referred to as the "Owings Town Hall" by local residents, including plays, dinners and dances. One such event was the Election Night Supper held by the Friendship Methodist Church, as the Owings polling house was located adjacent to the hall. (8)

By 1969, the Daughters of America no longer had a need for Owings Hall, and the property was sold to James J. Burton and John R. Sens, Jr., as joint tenants, and then to the sole ownership of James J. Burton in 1974. Following Burton's default on a mortgage to Maryland National Bank for \$40,000, the property was sold at auction in 1979 to Krick Plumbing and Heating Company, Inc., who used the building as a sheet metal shop. Owings Hall is now vacant.

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CHAIN OF TITLE

March 21, 1927: Harry P. Owings and Hattie E. Owings, wife, to the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Loyal Council #153 and the Daughters of America, Dixie Council #87
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 17, Folio 175

October 4, 1927: Harry P. Owings and Hattie E. Owings, wife, to the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Loyal Council #153 and the Daughters of America, Dixie Council #87
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 19, Folio 76

October 27, 1952: Junior Order United American Mechanics, Loyal Council #153 to the Daughters of America, Dixie Council #87
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 33, Folio 30

April 26, 1969: Helen P. Lyons, Trustee for the Daughters of America, Dixie Council #87 to James J. Burton and John R. Sens, Jr.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 26, Folio 258

July 31, 1974: John R. Sens, Jr. and James J. Burton to James J. Burton
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 196, Folio 730

August 25, 1978: James J. Burton to Maryland National Bank (mortgage)
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 236, Folio 84

November 1, 1979: Thomas L. Starkley, agent for Maryland National Bank, to Krick Plumbing and Heating Company, Inc.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 254, Folio 798

ENDNOTES

1. "The Principles of Freemasonry," on the World Wide Web at www.masonicfax.com/principles.htm.
2. "Junior Order United American Mechanics," on the World Wide Web at www.bessel.org/jouam.htm.
3. "Constitution, By-Laws, Order of Business and Rules of Order of the State Council of Maryland, Junior Order of United American Mechanics; also Constitution, By-

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-
- Laws, Order of Business and Rules of Order of Subordinate Councils," revised 1922, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD, p. 5.
4. "Junior Order United American Mechanics Official Application for Membership," 1930, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
5. Ritual of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, 1909, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
6. "Constitution, By-Laws of the Junior Order."
7. "Junior Order United American Mechanics."
8. "Owings Community Hall has many stories under its roof," The Calvert Recorder, October 19, 2001.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.21 acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.11 acres

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Owings Hall has been associated with Parcel 163, as denoted on Tax Map 7, since its construction circa 1927.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.

date 8/26/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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"Constitution...of the Jr.O.U.A.M.," revised 1922, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

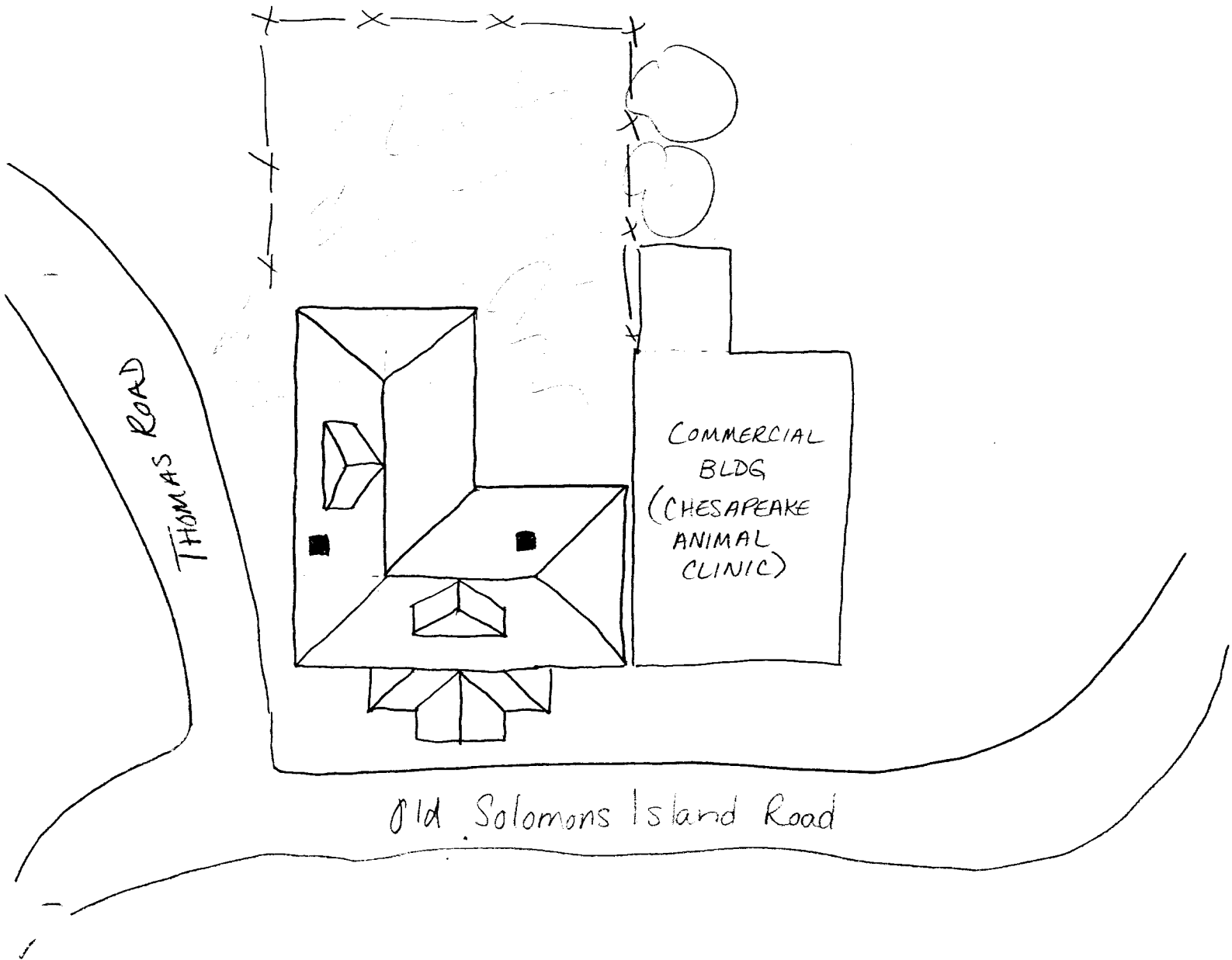
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-1289

OWINGS HALL

9833 OLD SOLOMONS ISLAND ROAD

OWINGS, CALVERT COUNTY, MD



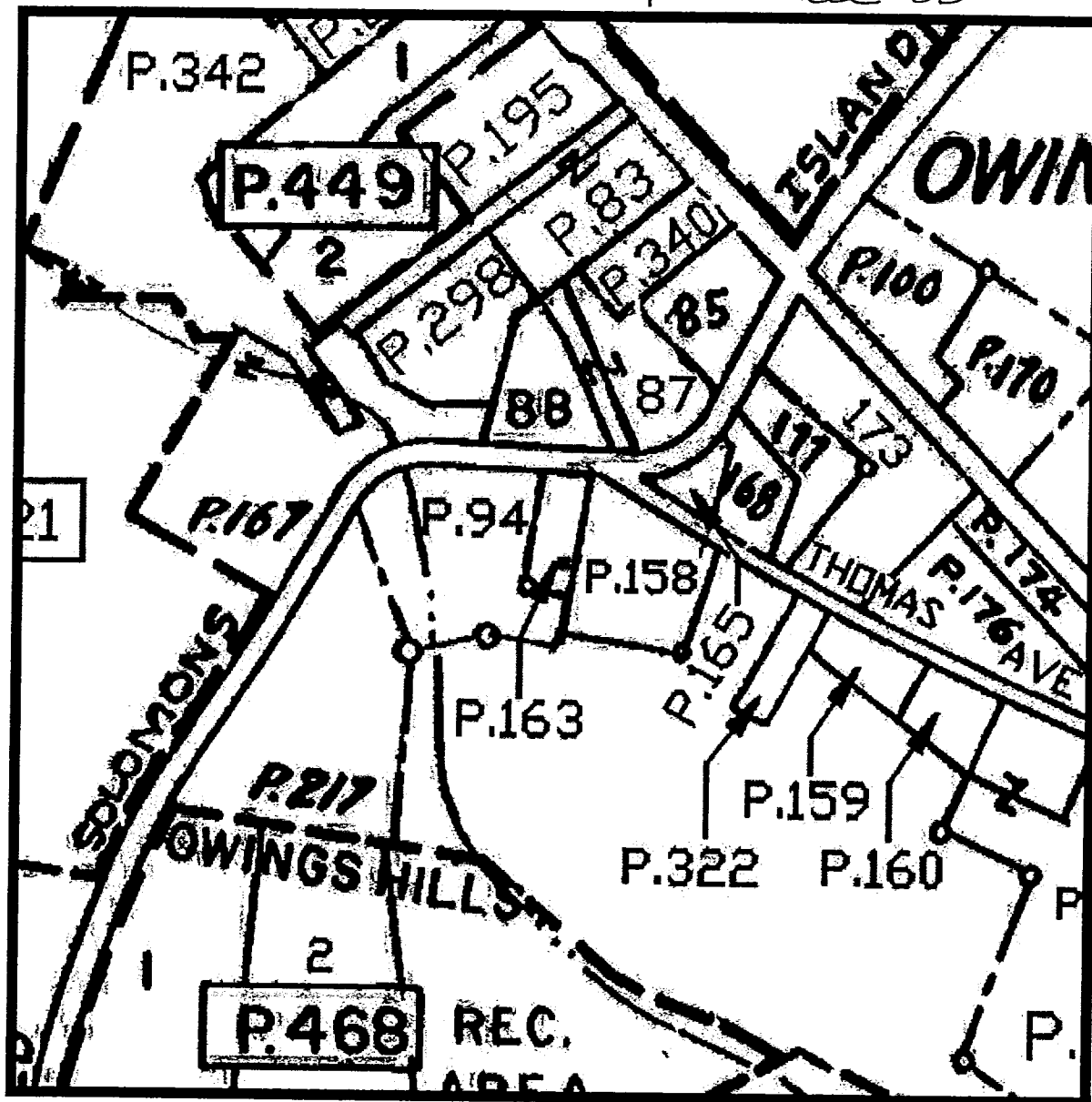
www.godall

CT-1289

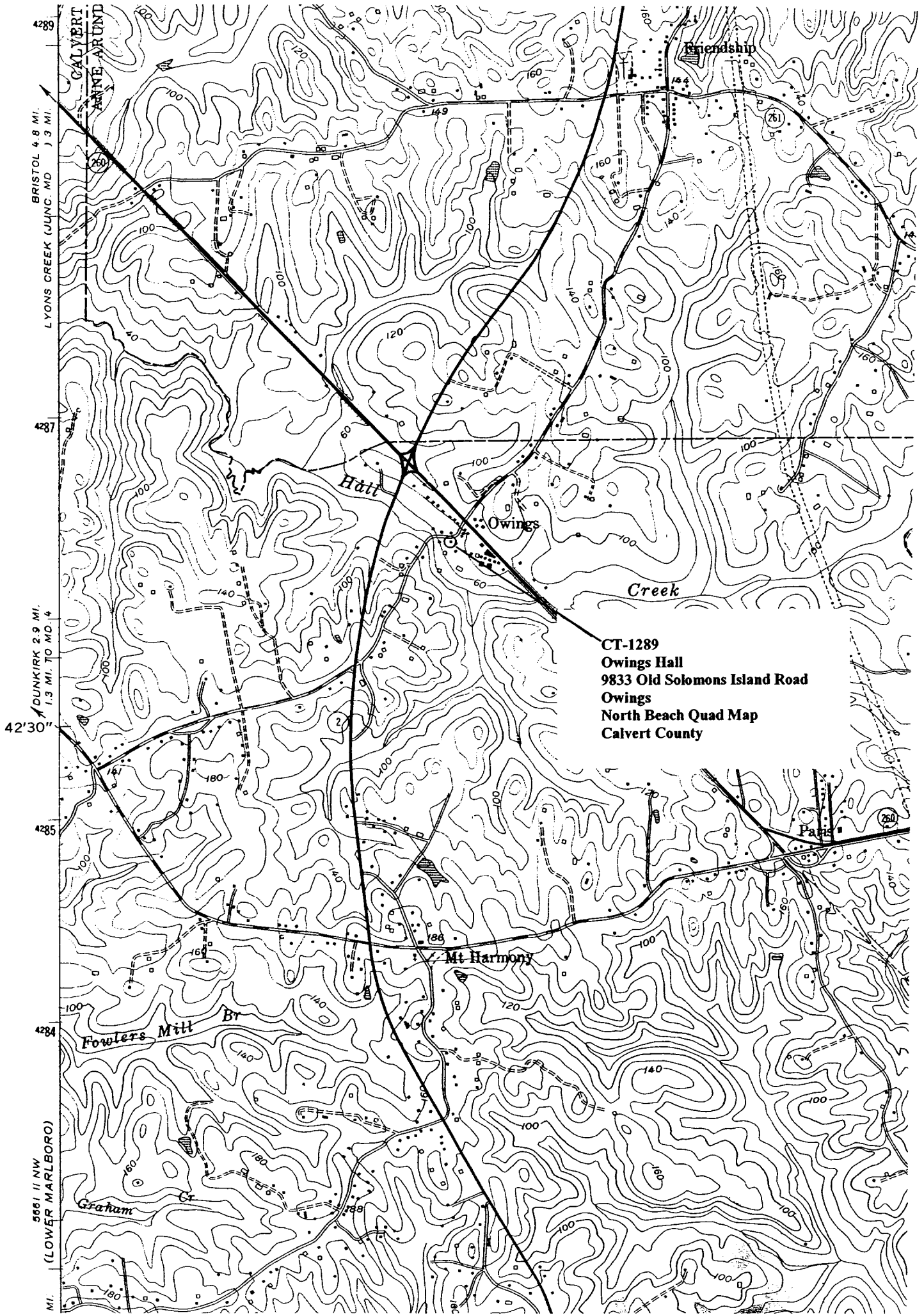
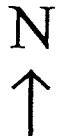


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Map 7 Parcel 163



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us



CT-1289
Owings Hall
9833 Old Solomons Island Road
Owings
North Beach Quad Map
Calvert County



CT-1289

Owings Hall

9833 Old Solomons Island Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

North Elevation, Looking South

1 OF 4



CT-1289

Owings Hall

9833 Old Solomons Island Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

NW Corner, Looking SE

2 OF 4



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Owings Hall

9833 Old Solomons Island Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

South Elevation, Looking North

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Owings Hall

9833 Old Solomons Island Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPo

NE Corner, Looking SW

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